GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2122
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Pilot to Cockpit Ratio in IAF
Girri Shri Maheish;Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to increase pilot to cockpit ratio in the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present utilization rate of basic and advanced trainer aircraft and the measures being taken by the IAF to increase the utilization rate of aircraft;

(d) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with foreign countries to develop and enhance country's trainer aircraft; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the terms of such collaboration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): Existing pilot-to-Cockpit ratio for the current number of Squadrons in IAF is in consonance with the authorized ratio.

(c) The present utilization rate of the trainer aircraft is as follows:-

Pilatus Mk-II - 19.73 hrs
Kiran Mk-I/IA - 18.36 hrs
Hawk-132 - 13.42 hrs.

Measures like proactive forecasting of requirement of spares, reducing down time of aircraft and optimal utilization of available resources have been taken to increase the utilization rate of aircraft.

(d) & (e): Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is currently manufacturing Hawk MK-132 Advanced Jet Trainer Aircraft under Transfer of Technology from British Aerospace Systems, United Kingdom (BAE systems UK). Further, HAL has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BAE systems UK in May 2015 for HAWK MK-132 upgrade and development of combat HAWK for Indian and export markets.

****